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To: R6 Daily News MailList [R6_DailyNewsML@epa.gov]
Subject: Daily News Digest, Wednesday, Sept. 18
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1 - EPA to revoke California's power to limit vehicle emissions, Politico, 9/17/19

<https://www.politico.com/story/2019/09/17/epa-california-obama-waiver-1500336>

The Trump administration on Wednesday will revoke California's power to enforce more stringent limits on vehicle carbon pollution than the federal government, sparking a battle with the state that has led a revolt against the EPA's rollbacks of dozens of environmental regulations. The long-expected move seeks to neuter California's resistance to President Donald Trump's proposed rewrite of the Obama-era rules that would have required automakers to accelerate the deployment of more fuel-efficient cars and light trucks, a high priority in the state that has led the nation in efforts to fight climate change.

2 - EPA Releases Final Plan For Tar Creek Clean-Up, KOTV, 9/17/19

<https://www.newson6.com/story/41062640/epa-releases-final-plan-for-tar-creek-cleanup>

The Environmental Protection Agency is releasing its final strategic plan for the ongoing clean-up at the Tar Creek Superfund site. The Ottawa County site is one of the largest Superfund programs, with tens of millions of tons of chat left over from more than a half century of mining

3 - Texas Tech, Texas A&M awarded approximately \$1.3 million for PFAS research, 9/15/19

<https://www.everythinglubbock.com/news/local-news/texas-tech-texas-am-awarded-approximately-1-3-million-for-pfas-research/>

Today [Tuesday], the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced approximately \$1.3 million to fund research by two academic institutions in Texas. Texas A&M AgriLife and Texas Tech University will work to expand the understanding of the environmental risks posed by per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in waste streams. They will also work to identify practical approaches to manage the potential impacts as PFAS enters the environment.

4 - Federal plan to end state mileage standards draws criticism, Galveston County Daily News, 9/18/19

https://www.galvnews.com/news_ap/texas/article_44ca17ba-e9be-50dd-8bdf-ffc7bc87f1f0.html

The Trump administration is poised to revoke California's authority to set auto mileage standards, asserting that only the federal government has the power to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and fuel economy. Conservative and free-market groups have been asked to attend a formal announcement of the rollback set for Wednesday afternoon at Environmental Protection Agency headquarters in Washington.

5 – Groups Sue EPA Over Los Alamos Pollution, KRWG, 9/17/19

<https://www.krwg.org/post/groups-sue-epa-over-los-alamos-pollution>

Late yesterday, clean water advocates filed a lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to force it to address extremely high urban storm water pollution in Los Alamos County, downstream from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). Urban storm water pollution from PCBs, copper, zinc, nickel, and gross alpha radiation in Los Alamos County is threatening public health – some pollutants are more than 10,000 times public safety limits. This pollution should have triggered federal action to reduce or eliminate these discharges in the form of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, but the EPA has failed to act. In 2014 Amigos Bravos petitioned the agency to address this threat, but it did not respond.

6 – EDITORIAL: EPA has lost its way; it isn't protecting America's water, Houston Chron, 9/18/19

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/editorials/article/EPA-has-lost-its-way-it-isn-t-protecting-14447796.php>

Let's take a moment to remember why the federal Clean Water Act was passed in 1972. Because people were getting sick after swimming in, fishing from, or drinking polluted water. Because nearly two-thirds of the nation's lakes, rivers and coastal waters were unsafe for humans. Because untreated sewage and other pollution was being dumped routinely, unchecked, into our waterways. Some land use restrictions were needed to prevent that. That should be clearly understood, especially in Texas, where 143,000 miles of streams will be impacted by the Environmental Protection Agency's recent decision to weaken the clean water rules.

7 - Lawsuit hopes to force EPA to address water pollution from Los Alamos National Laboratory, Carlsbad Current Argus, 9/17/19

<https://www.currentargus.com/story/news/local/2019/09/17/los-alamos-national-laboratory-lawsuit-epa-pollution-clean-water-act/2352875001/>

Environmentalist sued the federal Environmental Protection agency for alleged water pollution stemming from activities at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The suit was intended to force the EPA to address "extremely high" storm water pollution in Los Alamos County, downstream of LANL. The Western Environmental Law Center alleged contamination from PCBs, copper, zinc, nickel and alpha radiation threatened public health, with some pollutants more than 10,000 times public safety limits, read a news release from the Center.

8 - WOTUS repeal good news for farmers, ranchers, Oklahoman, 9/18/19

<https://oklahoman.com/article/5641558/wotus-repeal-good-news-for-farmers-ranchers>

The Environmental Protection Agency's recent repeal of an Obama-era water rule is good news for the state's farmers and ranchers and a victory for Oklahoma's senior U.S. senator, who fought the overzealous move from the outset.

In 2015, the EPA greatly expanded the definition of "Waters of the United States," or WOTUS, under the federal Clean Water Act. The term traditionally had referred to large lakes and rivers, although the definition was expanded in 1986 to include tributaries and adjacent wetlands.

9 – Improvement at Tar Creek, but still many years to fully remediate area, says EPA official, Tulsa World, 9/18/19

https://www.tulsaworld.com/news/state-and-regional/improvement-at-tar-creek-but-still-many-years-to-fully/article_9caeac75-8c2b-5fc5-abfc-57f052923e31.html

Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator Ken McQueen touted how working together with the state and the Quapaw Nation has yielded many successes in the Tar Creek Strategic Plan, but there are many years left to restore the land. McQueen, who spoke Tuesday at a Tar Creek conference, is the Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 administrator.

10 Clean Power Plan legal war is over — sort of, EE News, 9/18/19

<https://www.eenews.net/energywire/2019/09/18/stories/1061131965>

Litigation over the Clean Power Plan may have officially come to an end yesterday, but some of the key issues about the legality of the rule will still be up for review in the lawsuit over its replacement. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled yesterday that the consolidated litigation over the Obama administration's rule on carbon emissions from power plants was now moot (E&E News PM, Sept. 17).

11 Houston area prepares for heavy rain, flooding from Imelda, Climate Wire, 9/18/19

<https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2019/09/18/stories/1061131179>

Officials in the Houston area are preparing high-water vehicles and staging rescue boats as Tropical Storm Imelda threatens to dump up to 15 inches of rain in parts of southeast Texas and southwestern Louisiana over the next few days. The storm, which formed yesterday, made landfall near Freeport, Texas, with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph.

12 House passes lead contamination bill, EE News, 9/18/19

<https://www.eenews.net/eedaily/2019/09/18/stories/1061132083>

The House approved legislation yesterday to help fund efforts aimed at reducing lead from drinking water.

Lawmakers passed S. 1689, sponsored by Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.). It would allow states to transfer some money from their Clean Water State Revolving Fund to their Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. The Senate approved the bill last week by unanimous consent. The House passed it unanimously under suspension of the rules.

13 Water quality sensor hitches a ride on steamboat, Greenwire, 9/17/19

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2019/09/17/stories/1061130009>

A data-gathering sensor attached to the American Queen steamboat will give scientists and cities a better understanding of water quality along the entire length of the Mississippi River, officials said yesterday. U.S. Geological Survey and Army Corps of Engineers officials, a group of Mississippi River city mayors, and the operators of the American Queen gathered to show off the new equipment on the steam-driven vessel in Memphis, Tenn. The stately steamboat is the first private vessel to carry a sensor that gathers data to help preserve and restore ecosystems, and to buoy economies of cities and towns up and down the heavily traveled commercial waterway.

14 Third new judge in two years on Spanish Lake oil field contamination suit orders new hearings on Shell liability, Advocate, 9/17/19

https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/article_7c343f36-d8a2-11e9-8fd6-d3b13cd04ba0.html

A retired appellate judge appointed to hear a longstanding oil field legacy lawsuit involving the Spanish Lake swamp breathed new life into the landowners' damage claims this week when he granted them new hearings that keep Shell Oil firmly in the dispute. Filed in 2010 in Iberville Parish, the lawsuit brought by Spanish Lake Restoration, a wetland mitigation bank holding 4,000 acres of the swamp southwest of Baton Rouge, has never gone to on trial on the merits.

15 New TCEQ commissioner an Abbott aid with nuclear waste experience, Houston Chron, 9/16/19

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/article/New-TCEQ-commissioner-an-Abbott-aid-with-nuclear-14444409.php>

Bobby Janecka, a policy aide to Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Texas liaison to the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission, was appointed by the governor to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on Monday. Janecka assumes a seat that had been vacant since last September when former TCEQ Chair Bryan Shaw suddenly stepped down and was replaced as chair by commissioner Jon Niermann. The three commissioners, appointed by the governor, serve staggered six-year terms.